

**From:** Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/26/2019 3:19:20 PM  
**To:** R6Press [R6Press@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Daily News Digest, Tuesday, March 26  
**Attachments:** Daily News Digest 032619.pdf

***\*Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.***

***\*To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email [R6Press@epa.gov](mailto:R6Press@epa.gov).***

**1 – Cleanup Continues At Deer Park Facility, Crews Laying Foam On Exposed Chemicals To Prevent Emissions, Houston Public Media, 3/25/19**

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2019/03/25/326461/cleanup-continues-at-deer-park-facility-no-dangerous-chemicals-detected-in-last-24-hours/>

The cleanup process continues at the Deer Park petrochemical storage facility that sustained a massive fire last week. Officials said Monday the latest air quality readings are satisfactory and water is being tested, while traffic on part of the Houston Ship Channel is still restricted.

**2 - Deer Park's mayor says progress is being made after the chemical fire. But some residents aren't so sure, CNN, 3/25/19**

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/25/us/deer-park-residents-environment/index.html>

The Houston Ship Channel remained closed Monday because of oil and pollutants that leaked into the waterway during last week's chemical fire at the Intercontinental Terminals Company in Deer Park, Texas, a Coast Guard official told reporters.

**3 - Environmental, Economic Damage a Concern Now That Houston-Area Fire Out, NBC, 3/25/19**

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Environmental-Economic-Damage-a-Concern-Now-That-Houston-Area-Fire-Out-507652641.html>

Businesses and residents expressed concern Monday about the environment and economic fallout from a fire at a Houston-area petrochemical storage farm that sent huge plumes into the air for days and prompted the partial closure of one of the busiest commercial waterways in the U.S.

**4 - Houston Ship Channel closure could cost \$1 billion, Houston Chronicle, 3/25/19**

<https://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Houston-Ship-Channel-closure-could-cost-1-billion-13715272.php>

The closure of a portion of the Houston Ship Channel in the aftermath of the days-long Deer Park chemical fire could cost the petroleum and petrochemical sectors an estimated \$1 billion in direct and indirect costs and lost revenues, experts said.

**5 - Deer Park fire underscores why good companies plan for disasters, Houston Chronicle, 3/25/19**

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/Deer-Park-fire-underscores-why-good-companies-13714014.php>

As a cloud of toxic darkness hovered above, spokeswoman Alice Richardson was asked if the Intercontinental Terminals Co. would apologize to all of the residents of Deer Park for the petrochemical fire that raged for

almost four days, releasing a seemingly endless plume of noxious smoke that would stretch hundreds of miles in the sky.

**6 – EDITORIAL: After two petrochemical fires, how much risk is too much for Texans in an oil boom?, Dallas Morning News, 3/24/19**

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/2019/03/23/after-two-petrochemical-fires-much-risk-much-texans-oil-boom>

Two fires at refinery and chemical facilities on the Texas Gulf Coast this month remind us that as the Texas energy industry grows, so does the risk.

**7 – Arkansas governor calls for postponing hog-farm bill, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 3/25/19**

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/mar/26/governor-calls-for-postponing-hog-farm-/>

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Monday that he hopes state lawmakers don't proceed with a bill that would change how concentrated animal feeding operations, namely hog farms, would be permitted.

**8 - Groups: EPA has dragged heels on oil dispersant rules, WWLTV, 3/25/19**

<https://www.wwltv.com/article/tech/science/environment/groups-epa-has-dragged-heels-on-oil-dispersant-rules/289-6e7016e3-c6c5-4f51-9c3e-d55a8c2fc8d9>

The groups say dispersants such as Corexit, used during the Exxon Valdez and BP oil spills, were more toxic to people and the environment than oil alone.

**9 – Coal plants emitted more than ever in 2018, putting Earth in 'deep trouble', New Orleans Times-Picayune, 3/25/19**

<https://www.nola.com/environment/2019/03/coal-plants-emitted-more-than-ever-in-2018-putting-earth-in-deep-trouble.html>

Global energy experts released grim findings Monday, saying that not only are planet-warming carbon-dioxide emissions still increasing, but the world's growing thirst for energy has led to higher emissions from coal-fired power plants than ever before.

**10 – Water laps at St. Francisville homes; too soon to say if town will need 'another ark', Baton Rouge Advocate, 3/25/19**

[https://www.theadvocate.com/baton-rouge/news/article\\_1e495656-4f48-11e9-bec8-97c6e03e1f46.html](https://www.theadvocate.com/baton-rouge/news/article_1e495656-4f48-11e9-bec8-97c6e03e1f46.html)

The waters of the Mississippi River, at nearly their peak level, are slowly lapping at Fred Smith's St. Francisville home. While it's a spectacular sight, it's not unusual for the West Feliciana Parish town to see the water this high. What is unusual is that it's been this way for a month.

**11 – EPA provides update on Bonita Peak Superfund site water treatment plant and sampling data, Global Mining Review, 3/25/19**

<https://www.globalminingreview.com/exploration-development/26032019/epa-provides-update-on-bonita-peak-superfund-site-water-treatment-plant-and-sampling-data/>

Yesterday, EPA released preliminary water quality sampling data related to the temporary shutdown of the interim water treatment plant at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund site at Gladstone (Colorado).

**12 – EPA to Issue Partial Waivers on 39 Refinery Exemptions for 2018, WNAX, 3/25/19**

<https://wnax.com/news/180081-epa-to-issue-partial-waivers-on-39-refinery-exemptions-for-2018/>

The Environmental Protection Agency will reportedly issue partial waivers to some of the 39 refiners asking for exemptions from the Renewable Fuels Standard. The agency has also told Texas Senator Ted Cruz the agency they will keep granting waivers and won't retroactively reallocate those waived obligations.

